

February 23rd, 2005
MCA-MDT Technical Committee Meeting

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m. Bob Warren opened the meeting with introductions. MDT was given an opportunity to discuss new business and then the group went through the agenda items.

NEW BUSINESS FROM MDT

1. **Changes in Letting Schedule.** MDT informed MCA there would be some drastic changes coming up in the future lettings. One project that will be moved to the April Letting is the Frenchtown project that was caused by delays in authorization. MDT wanted MCA to be aware of this project and others that might be moved.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Pre-permitting by Environmental Bureau.** MDT informed MCA that the department tried pre-permitting on some projects and had some problems. MDT will continue pre-permitting on a case-by-case basis particularly on well-defined items like detour locations.
2. **Specification for Glass Cullet in CAC.** MDT informed MCA that the specifications have always allowed this use in certain applications. The project that was going to require its use was pulled from the letting. MDT will give an update if and when glass cullet will be required on a project. MCA prefers it to be optional.
3. **Temporary Sign Supports.** MCA requested uniformity within the districts. MDT will look into this.
4. **Traffic Control Units.** MCA informed MDT that Traffic Control costs (overruns and under runs) are controlling bids. MDT feels that Lump Sum seems to be a good way to address these concerns. MCA agreed that Lump Sum, on a limited basis, will work when there is a good Traffic Control plan. The subcontractor feels that they are taking on all the risk when there is Lump Sum Traffic Control. MDT wants to reconvene the Traffic Control Committee to address these concerns.
5. **Select Backfill Gradation.** MDT requested additional information and comments from MCA.

At this point MCA jumped ahead to agenda item #9 and some new business that they were afraid we would not have time to address. The discussion did not return to these remaining agenda items

6. **100% incidental item.** MCA requested that MDT specify in what pay item the incidental work will be absorbed. MDT requested some comments from MCA and will consider them.
7. **Erosion Control.** MDT informed MCA that the BMP rate schedule has been completed and should be out. MDT will continue working on this annually and will welcome all comments. MCA feels there should be some kind of a pay item for maintenance on Erosion Control. MDT asked for specific examples and reasons. Routine maintenance can be included in the bid and unusual events are covered in other ways (force account).

8. **¾" Crushed Top Surfacing.** MDT is still waiting for the new AASHTO design guidelines before making a decision.
9. **Utility Task Force.** MCA talked to MDT's Utility Section Manager. MDT suggested that Right of Way often tries to acquire the parcels that have utility conflicts first. MCA informed MDT that the rural electric co-ops are causing the most trouble. MCA will move forward with forming the Utility Task Force committee.

NEW BUSINESS FROM MCA

1. **Contract Time.** MCA informed MDT about problems the contractors were experiencing with small jobs that have short contract time particularly when these jobs are let during construction. The contractors are experiencing problems with enforcement between the districts. MCA would like to see some flexibility or provide MDT with some kind of a Chipping Schedule. MCA feels that flex time, used on a limited basis, would work. MDT feels that the contract time could be put on the "blue sheets" and will try to get this going.
2. **Cement Supply.** MCA informed MDT about a possible cement shortage for this upcoming construction season. Most suppliers won't even quote jobs for the contractors. The cement suppliers have been exporting more than the normal amount due to the tsunami in Asia destroying a large producer. The mild winter is also a contributing factor because construction has continued through the winter and suppliers have not been able to build up their supply. MCA will give further updates as this problem develops.

The next meeting will be **March 30th, 2005**, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the **MCA Office**.

cc:	Gene Kaufman, FHWA	Paul Ferry
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